

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSM-03 HA-05 SAA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00
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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PINT EG
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN DEMOCRACY: MONTH OF DIALOGUE PART II

SUMMARY: "NATIONAL DIALOGUE" INDICATES INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS WILL CONTINUE TO BE GUARANTEED. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, HOWEVER, LIKELY BE LIMITED BY GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF MEDIA AND TRANSFER OF DISSIDENTS TO LESS SENSITIVE POSTS. MULTIPARTY SYSTEM WILL REMAIN, ALTHOUGH IT UNCLEAR HOW MANY PARTIES WILL BE PERMITTED. SADAT CONFIDANT MANSOUR PREDICTS PARTY LEADERSHIPS MAY CHANGE JULY 22--SOME EXPECT SADAT TO ASSUME FORMAL PARTY POSITION, AND PERHAPS PRIME MINISTER PORTFOLIO. ECONOMICALLY, INDICATIONS ARE THAT EGYPT WILL BE NUDGED TOWARDS YUGOSLAV MODEL. SPECULATION IN CAIRO IS RIFE, AT LEAST PARTIALLY BECAUSE SADAT HAS TOLD VERY FEW OF HIS INTENTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. CODE. FROM SERIES OF RECENT SPEECHES DELIVERED BY PRESIDENT SADAT, PRIME MINISTER SALEM, OTHER MINISTERS AND UNIVERSITY OF CAIRO PRESIDENT SOFIE ABU TALEB (TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHOM SADAT LOOKS FOR PHILOSOPHICAL DIRECTION) BROAD OUTLINES OF OUTCOME "NATIONAL DIALOGUE" BEGINNING TO EMERGE. CENTER PARTY SCHEDULED MEET UNDER SALEM'S CHAIRMANSHIP JULY 14 TO DRAFT RECOMMENDED "CODE OF ETHICS" WHICH WILL BE ENDORSED FOLLOWING WEEK BY ASU CENTRAL COMMITTEE. POLITICS, IN FUTURE, WILL BE CIRCUMSCRIBED BY THIS CODE.

2. PERSONAL FREEDOM. ALL EGYPTIAN LEADERS HAVE STRESSED THAT INDIVIDUAL FREEDOMS WILL CONTINUE TO BE GUARANTEED. CONCENTRATION CAMPS WILL REMAIN CLOSED; THERE WILL BE NO REVERSION TO ARBITRARY ARRESTS. SADAT, AND OTHERS, HAVE EMPHATICALLY STATED THAT FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION WILL NOT BE EFFECTED.

3. LIMITATIONS. LATTER, HOWEVER, WILL BE LIMITED BY ASU (READ GOVERNMENT) ROLE IN CONTROLLING PRESS AND OTHER MASS COMMUNICATIONS. DAILIES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN UNDER ASU THUMB; PARTY ORGANS' ABILITY TO DEVIATE FROM GOVERNMENT LINE WILL BE CIRCUMSCRIBED BY NEW PRESS LAW WHICH IS EXPECTED TO GIVE ASU EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THEIR EDITORIAL POLICIES. AS WE READ IT, PRIVATE DISSENT WILL BE TOLERATED BUT PUBLIC DEBATE WILL BE MUTED. SALEM HAS SUGGESTED PROPER ROLE FOR OPPOSITION PARTIES IS TO SUGGEST HOW GOVERNMENT MAY MORE EFFECTIVELY FULFILL ITS "NATIONAL PLAN." ALTERNATIVE PLANS, APPARENTLY, NOT WELCOME.

4. MULTIPARTY SYSTEM. MULTIPARTY SYSTEM, PER SE, WILL BE MAINTAINED. ABU TALEB, SPEAKING AT POPULAR RALLY JULY 6, NOTED REAL DEMOCRACY DEMANDS THIS. HOWEVER, THIS TOO WILL BE LIMITED. DOMESTIC LEFT--FREE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE--WILL BE TOLERATED, BUT THOSE LABELED "FOREIGN AGENTS" ARE LIKELY TO BE PURGED. OLD WAFDISTS ALREADY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BANNED FROM ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS. NEW BREED, APPARENTLY, WILL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER UMBRELLA IF THEY WISH TO MAKE THEIR VOICES EFFECTIVE. SADAT SPOKESMAN ANIS MANSOUR IN JULY 9 EDITION OF OCTOBER SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL PARTIES WILL BE PERMITTED TO FORM WITHOUT MEETING REQUIREMENT FOR 20 MP'S AMONG FOUNDING MEMBERS. MANSOUR HINTED LEADERSHIP OF EXISTING PARTIES MAY CHANGE AS RESULT SADAT'S JULY 22 "SURPRISE" (ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED "SURPRISE" WILL BE LESS DRAMATIC THAN MANY ANTICIPATED). RIGHT PARTY LEADER MUSTAFA KAMAL MURAD, AND OTHERS, HAVE ADVOCATED THAT SADAT ASSUME FORMAL LEADERSHIP OF CENTER PARTY AND PRIME MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO.

5. NUMBERS. NUMBER OF PARTIES WHICH WILL BE PERMITTED IS UNCLEAR. PRESS, DRAWING ON SADAT PRAISE FOR PRE-1952 NATIONALIST AND SOCIALIST PARTIES, HAS PREDICTED BOTH WILL REEMERGE. PRESIDENT, HOWEVER, REPEATEDLY HAS CLAIMED THAT ONLY THREE "TRENDS" CAN POSSIBLY EXIST IN ANY COUNTRY: LEFT, RIGHT, AND CENTER, WITH IMPLICATION NO MORE PARTIES NEEDED. ACCORDING ASU SEC GEN KHALIL, NO RESTRICTION WILL BE PUT ON NUMBER OF PARTIES SO LONG AS EACH CONFORMS TO EXISTING LAW. SALEM HAS ADDED TO CONFUSION

BY MOOTING POSSIBILITY THAT VARYING PHILOSOPHIES COULD BE REPRESENTED BY SINGLE PARTY ALTHOUGH HE, TOO, ENDORSED NEED FOR "STRONG" OPPOSITION.

6. ECONOMICS. CODE OF ETHICS CERTAIN TO STRESS SOCIALISM REMAINS ULTIMATE GOAL. HOWEVER, OPEN DOOR WILL REMAIN AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE WILL BE ENCOURAGED, ALBEIT WITH SOMEWHAT HEAVIER TAXES. EGYPTIAN SOCIALISM, ITSELF, LIKELY TO FACE CHANGES. ABU TALEB NOTED CURRENT SYSTEM HAS FAILED IN NUMEROUS AREAS BECAUSE IT SOUGHT COPY FOREIGN IDEOLOGY AND WAS FOUNDED ON UNDEMOCRATIC BASIS. FROM HIS VAGUE REMARKS, SOMETHING AKIN TO YUGOSLAV MODEL MAY BE IN OFFING. THIS EXPLICITLY SUGGESTED BY GUMHURIYYA

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IN JULY 9 ARTICLE CONCERNING FUTURE OF EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

7. COMMENT: MUCH OF SPECULATION ON CODE OF ETHICS AND FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION APPEARS TO BE UNINFORMED. SADAT IS CONSULTING FEW ON HIS INTENTIONS. SPEAKING TO EMBOFF JULY 10, ACTING SPEAKER OF PEOPLES ASSEMBLY SAYID ALI SAYID ADMITTED HE HAS NO IDEA WHAT SADAT PLANNING. MAJORITY OF HIS COLLEAGUES, WE SUSPECT, ARE IN SAME BOAT. EILTS

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